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Syria's Assad urged to go as isolation deepens

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Jordan's King Abdullah II urged President Bashar al-Assad to step down as the Syrian regime stood defiant even as EU states piled on extra pressure and activists said 40 people were killed.

Syria stood increasingly isolated with the European Union showering praise on the Arab League for its weekend decision to suspend Syria's membership in the bloc over its lethal crackdown on protests.

In the first such call by an Arab leader for Assad to quit, King Abdullah said in remarks aired on the BBC: "I believe, if I were in his shoes, I would step down. I would step down and make sure whoever comes behind me has the ability to change the status quo that we're seeing."

But Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem said that Damascus would not budge despite the "dangerous" and "shameful" Arab League move to suspend its membership.

"The decision of the Arab League to suspend Syria represents a dangerous step," Muallem said. "Today there is a crisis in Syria which pays the price of its strong positions.

Syria will not budge and will emerge stronger... and plots against Syria will fail."

On the ground, Syrian security forces shot dead at least 16 civilians in the flashpoint southern province of Daraa while 19 regime forces were killed in clashes with suspected army deserters, a rights group said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the civilians were killed by gunfire from checkpoints manned by security forces across Daraa, the cradle of eight months of anti-regime protests. Security forces also killed two people in the flashpoint central city of Homs, it said.

The EU said it "salutes and fully supports" the Arab League's suspension of Syria for failing to implement a plan to end violence that has left 3,500 dead since mid-March, according to the United Nations.

The meeting gave Syria 15 days to comply with the plan and on Saturday the Arab bloc decided that Damascus had failed to keep its side of the bargain and 18 of the 22 members voted in favour of suspending Syria.

The suspension is due to go into effect from Wednesday.

Innovation Summit II opens at Renaissance Convention Center



Aruba Bank Managing Director Marcelline Richardson

The National Council for Innovation and Competitiveness, NCIC, opened Innovation Summit II yesterday morning, with the focus on small businesses, as this is Aruba's first time observing Small Business Week. The summit opens five days of lectures and workshops to facilitate success for the many small entrepreneurs operating on Aruba. "Small businesses have existed for over 50 years," commented MC Dr. Ryan Peterson, Director of the NCIC, "they are an institution across the globe."

Officially welcoming the gathering and opening Small Business Week was Marcelline Richardson, Managing Director of the week's principal sponsor, ArubaBank. "Small Business is the big story of any country's economy...small business is the engine that creates most new jobs...small business currently holds in the U.S. about 55% of the jobs in the private sector...Small Business is also the major innovator, a laboratory of economic experiment. Compared to large corporations, small businesses have a number of innovation advantages that enable them to more readily identify opportunities, to quickly react to changing conditions, thereby remaining competitive."

introduce innovation and build a better community we must stimulate small business and eliminate the bottlenecks."

Minister of Social Economic and Cultural Affairs, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar presented an in-depth study of the small business situation on Aruba. She explained there are a remarkable number of companies with less than 10 employees, categorizing them as a "small businesses," registered at the Chamber of Commerce, considering the size and population of the island. 94% of all businesses in Aruba fall into the categories of Micro (2 or less) Small or Medium (50 employees or less.)

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Guest speakers, l. to r. Cesar Parga, Gerver Torres, Tony van Veen

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Bushiri Hotel: new prospect for revival of a hotel and hotel school?

ORANJESTAD -- Last Friday marked an important day for the future of the defunct Bushiri Hotel. At around 11 AM Notary Ralph Yarzagaray opened the sealed container containing the letters of interest from those interested in developing the Bushiri Hotel complex.

As many as 8 tenders were sold and a total of 5 envelopes were deposited with their firm intentions.

The parties who submitted bids for the project were:

1. Global Destination who intends to develop a Star Woods Hotel

2. HCC Holding N.V. who is interested in developing Challenge Hotel

3. Hotelco N.V. is interested in developing a Hilton Hotel

4. Elinax Finance Incorporated wants to bring a Blue Tree Hotel

5. South West Horeca N.V. has their hopes on developing a Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

The next step is for the evaluation committee to sit down and evaluate every bid and to advise the government. This committee is comprised of the following entities/persons: two members of the Mi-

nistry of Tourism, one member of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Integration, one member of DIP, one member of DOW, one member of Central Bank and one member of the ATA. These are charged with the task of evaluating the bids and ultimately to make recommendations to the Minister of Tourism. The Minister will follow up with a decision as to which party will receive the "Request for Proposal" so they can prepare firm plans and present this to the Minister and the government. Once this is done, the next step would be to get Parliament's approval for proceeding with the required procedure.

Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber has already made known what he has stipulated as being the requirements for qualifying to get the project. Oduber has stipulated that this project must be a 4-star hotel of 310 rooms with the option for a casino. He was also emphatic about the project including a training school which would be used gratis by the government during a period of 15 to 20 years. The intention is to return to the original concept of the Bushiri Hotel School as it was run in the past.

Continued on page 3

ELMAR preparing public tender for constructing solar park



Aruba's electric distribution company, ELMAR, has announced plans to build a solar panel park in the vicinity of the Airport, and is in the process of preparing a public tender bid. The solar park project consists of a specific design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance of the solar base in a contract with ELMAR.

The property being operated by the Airport Authority has been chosen for the area for this solar park. ELMAR's intention is to generate 4MW which will be directed to their network of 12kV. ELMAR has plans to meet the growing demand for clean energy by connecting various solar parks to their network.

Every candidate interested in the public tender will have opportunity to ask questions concerning the bid application (RFP). Questions may be directed solely by email to solar-tender@elmar.aw. The bid application is available at ELMAR's main office in the Wilhelminastraat #110 in Oranjestad. The public tender documents may be purchased between November 7th to December 5th, 2011.

To obtain an RFP, interested parties will be required to pay the fee of Afls. 2.500, sign a Non-disclosure Agreement and submit proof of payment and sign the Confidential Agreement during the above mentioned dates. Proof of payment must be a receipt received from one of ELMAR's cashiers or proof of a bank transfer.

Bid evaluations will be based on full compliance of all requirements and specified conditions with respect to: technical design, consideration of local conditions, quality and compatibility of equipment in conformity with ELMAR's standards and plant, the lowest price of kWh during the life of the contract, the quality and solidity of the business plan.

Also taken into account will be: the quality of the architectural design, esthetics, consideration of the extreme corrosive elements on Aruba and all guarantees.

Since 1950, ELMAR has been the sole distributor of electricity for the entire island of Aruba. ELMAR enjoys a solid financial position with the primary objective of controlling cost and ensuring that

there is stability continuity and growth to meet demands at an acceptable tariff. ELMAR buys her electricity from WEB ARUBA N.V., which is the water and electricity production company on Aruba. ELMAR is the owner of the distribution network of 60kV, 12 kV and 127/220V which they operate.

ELMAR is convinced that incorporating solar energy into her network, that this will most definitely increase their efficiency by reducing the waste in the transportation of electricity. This, they claim, will also help Aruba become less dependent on the importation of fuel oil.

ELMAR is a subsidiary of Utilities Aruba N.V.

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Innovation Summit II opens . . .

Continued from page 1

The goal of her presentation "The Business Climate in Aruba Today" was aimed at having "small businesses better prepared for going into business or expanding a business, or whatever it is that you are doing around a business. The goal of this entire week is to give you as much information as possible, to give you that extra chance and extra boost."

Some questions that may keep entrepreneurs up at night: Is this the right time to start a business...or change the business model, invest or expand into new markets?

The Minister then explained some of the ways in which the government has taken steps to make starting new businesses easier and more affordable: elimination of redundant paperwork, reduction of fees and import duties, particularly on products for harnessing renewable energy sources, and electric and hybrid cars.

They changed the tax laws to increase the deductible on charitable donations from 10,000 to 50,000 Aruban florins, encouraging compa-

nies to be good members of the community, as well.

They now offer counseling services from various organizations to help aspiring business owners in best organizing and setting up and operation, at no charge. This collaboration of government and NGO organizations is called Iniciativa pa Desaroyo di Empresa Arubano- or "IDEA" which will advise on taxes, financing, licensing, economic data, legal requirement, and training & workshops.

Following Minister Hooyer-Winklaar's presentation the Innovation Summit II welcomed 3 guest speakers. Cesar Parga of the Organization of American States and, Gerver Torres from Gallup International, both out of Washington, D.C. and Tony van Veen from AVI Digital Group, New Jersey.

Mr. Parga came to speak of the growth in business innovation in the Americas, particularly Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Torres discussed the importance of workforce motivation for innovation, and Mr. van Veen

looked at best practices.

The morning session ended with a panel discussion by local entrepreneurs who have ventured "outside the box" to establish successful small businesses on the island. These included Carlos Maduro of Office Systems, Mark Benson-Denz of 24.ora.com, Jodi Tobman of Salamander Holdings, which operates Juggling Fish, Cocconut Trading, T.J. Palm's and The Lazy Lizard.

Entrance to Innovation Summit II was free to all small business operators attending; the macro economic outlook of Aruba based on the 2011 figures so far indicate that the island has low and stable inflation and unemployment rate, as well as increased tourism and confidence, which equals a positive and optimistic environment for entrepreneurship and investment. Statistics demonstrate is Aruba is noticeably outperforming not only the other Dutch island in the region, but also most Latin American countries as well.

by Rosalie Klein

Bushiri Hotel: new prospect for revival of a hotel ...

Continued from page 2



So, within a matter of months the island should know what will be the future of the defunct Bushiri Hotel and which group will develop this hotel. The hope of everyone, especially those in the tourism industry is to see this once prestigious hotel and world-renown hotel institution regain its place of importance and glamour it once enjoyed.

Observers have remarked that Dr. Tony Green, who led that Hotel School from its feeble beginnings of 16 students to a thriving world-class institution with international recognition to over 350 students, must be elated to read of the prospects of such a school again. Actually, we know that if the government back in 2002 had taken Green's prepared and well-studied advise, the school would have never left the Bushiri Hotel complex and that the School and Hotel would have never closed. But, it appears that the Minister of Tourism, who coincidentally was a student of the Bushiri Hotel School who earned his first degree in Hospitality Management from the Bushiri Hotel School and who knows how prestigious this school was, so much so that he was able to transfer straight into the third year class at Florida International University without any problem whatsoever, is committed to making this project a reality. The Morning News applauds his arduous efforts.

Emotive 11-11-11 weddings on Beautiful Aruba

Laurel and Reed walk in LOVE



State of Washington to marry. It was also a good time to get away before tax season.

After many years as partners, and then friends, in an accounting firm, this seed of friendship became their destiny. It was fate that brought them together, and it is love that will keep them together.

They arrived by cruise ship to spend the day on our island, but, first and most important was to celebrate and bless their marriage with the most memorable, personal, religious ceremony, officiated by Diane Keijzer on Eagle Beach.

When Reed heard they would be mar-

rying on Eagle Beach, he was reminded of one of his favorite passages from Isaiah 40:31, a part that says... "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as Eagles..."

This first time experiencing Aruba was too short, so, next time they plan on coming for a vacation.

Congratulations



11-11-11 is a good day for Laurel and Reed from the

Kelly and Trisha's "sweet and simple" dream wedding



Trisha and Kelly from South Bend, Indiana dreamed of getting married on Aruba, and having their beach blessing in front of the famous Fofoti tree. That day was Friday, November 11, 2011. They have been together a little over 9 years. They met in the bank that Trisha worked at and Kelly was a customer. After about the 25th time of him asking her out, she finally agreed. Within 2 weeks they were very much in love and have been inseparable since. Kelly's patience and persistence paid off. Good things do come to those who wait.

They were one of 24 weddings performed in our beautiful historic civil house that special day. Their best friends, Marcie, and Brad and his girlfriend Rachel traveled to Aruba with them to witness their special day, but Dundee and Daisy, their two dogs had to stay home. The weather was excellent, the personalized wedding blessing officiated by Diane Keijzer in front of Aruba's famous Fofoti tree was perfect, and dinner on the beach at Passion's Restaurant was superb. A special 'thank you' goes to wedding coordinator, Edwina Werleman of E2 Events.

Jeanne and Craig's memorable wedding at 11-11-11@11:11AM



gether 8 years, and 11-11-11 is a date for a successful marriage. They walked into the civil house to get legally married at 11:11AM, and 11-11-11@11:11AM or PM occurs one day every 100 years. They had 11 guests.

Part of the reason they are together today is because back then before meeting Craig, Jeanne had moved to Indiana for a job she was not happy with except for the great paycheck, and mothers being mothers and knowing what is best, on Mother's Day, her mother asked her for a special gift, that she, Jeanne, would quit her job and move back to South Carolina where she knew she would be happiest.

During her time in Indiana she and Craig had met via the

Jeanne Hammel, a State Housing Authority program coordinator, and Craig Rivers, a civil engineer with Mead and Hunt, Inc. from Chapin, South Carolina wanted to get married on a memorable day, 11-11-11. Jeanne is a Libra, a person of balance. Number 11 represents balance. This day they are to-



internet and were e-mail pals, and he wholeheartedly agreed she should move back so they could finally be together. He even flew out to Indiana to

drive her back to South Carolina with all her belongings, and her cat. The rest is history!

Pictures by Diane Keijzer show the happy couple and the

family and friends from South and North Carolina and Texas at their wedding dinner. Congratulations, and we'll see you next year.

Repair work on schools expected to take a year to complete!

ORANJESTAD -- Last week directors of the St. Dominicus and La Salle Colleges, together with President of the SKOA (school board) and Prime Minister Eman and Ministers Dowers and Sevinger visited the grounds of both schools where contractors are busy repairing these two school buildings. Both schools are being completely "overhauled" as they are in terrible physical condition and desperately need this repair.

Prime Minister Eman remarked that he was appalled to learn of the decaying physical condition of the SKOA school buildings and how the SKOA was simply financially bankrupt. He intimated that he was pleased that the government was successful in helping these schools to recover financially and to get their buildings repaired.

Eman expressed that he could sense the satisfaction that the two directors of these schools, Mrs. Vinck of the St. Dominicus College, and Mr. Brunk of the La Salle College feel that their school buildings are finally getting the desperately needed repairs!

Eman concluded his remarks with words of praise for SKOA's president, Mrs. Daal, for her persistence, and for Mr. Brunk and Mrs. Vinck for their patience. He also thanked the contractors and the different government departments working together to accomplish the repair of these school buildings.

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Minister Michelle Hooyboer Winklaar joins all the community to welcome Sinterklaas



ORANJESTAD – Oranjestad Harbor was packed Sunday afternoon to welcome Aruba's favorite visitor, Sinterklaas and his Zwarte Pieten (Black Peters). A multitude of island children and their parents were present to greet the venerable old man as he and his helpers disem-

barked from the ship that brought them here all the way from Spain. First on line to give Sinterklaas a hug and receive his blessing was Minister of Economics, Culture and Social Affairs Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar.

After saluting all the children and giving out sweets,

the Sinterklaas parade took off through town to the Plaza Betico Croes. There the beloved figure and his mischievous Zwarte Pieten attended to some very serious



business, rewarding the children who were good the whole year, while admonishing the naughty ones and extracting promises from them to be good from now on.

Sinterklaas will remain on the island until the day following his feast day, December 5. It is highly likely he and his assistants will be spot-

ted frequently; island children will leave out a shoe and some grass and water for his horse each night, as he makes his rounds from house to house leaving sweet treats and small toys for all the good children of Aruba.

Photos show moments of Sinterklaas' arrival.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Police break up Occupy Oakland, arrest protesters

OAKLAND (AFP) - Hundreds of police in riot gear dismantled the Occupy Oakland camp yesterday, evicting and arresting protesters in the second such US move in as many days as authorities get tough against the two-month-old protest movement.

"The camp area has been cleared," a police dispatcher told AFP.

Several people gathering for a prayer service at the site were arrested, as were some protesters who remained in their tents during the operation.

"I'll be back!" shouted one protester, as she was being handcuffed at the encampment at the site outside City Hall which has been a weeks-long source of tension for the west coast US city.

On Sunday, police evicted dozens of anti-Wall Street protesters from downtown Portland, Oregon in the western

United States, making over 50 arrests in one of the latest cities to act against the encampments.

The police interventions could be seen as a turning point of sorts, after three deaths last week at Occupy camps -- including a deadly shooting at the Oakland site -- rocked the movement.

The Oakland camp, part of the Occupy Wall Street movement that began in September in New York, and whose protests against corporate greed, corruption and growing wealth gaps have gone global, has been a point of controversy for weeks. When a man was fatally shot near the camp Thursday, apparently after a dispute, city officials concluded it was time to act.

Following the shooting, Oakland Mayor Jean Quan was quoted by the LA Times as saying that the camp would have to be closed down.

McCain chides Republican candidates on torture'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Senior US Senator John McCain yesterday rebuked Republican presidential candidates who came out in favor of a harsh interrogation tactic known as waterboarding, bluntly calling it "torture."

"Very disappointed by statements at SC (South Carolina) GOP (Republican) debate supporting waterboarding. Waterboarding is torture," McCain said on his official Twitter feed.

Several of the party's White House hopefuls said Saturday at a debate on foreign policy that they would reverse President Barack Obama's ban on techniques that meet international definitions of torture.

Monti warns Italians face sacrifices, markets need to wait

ROME (AFP) - Mario Monti warned there could be "sacrifices" ahead for Italians and asked investors yesterday to be patient as he scrambled to put together a cabinet to fight a debt crisis that has spooked Europe.

"Blood no, tears no, but maybe sacrifices," the prime ministerial nominee told reporters when asked what Italians should expect, after a day of heavy pressure from the markets following Silvio Berlusconi's exit on Saturday.

"I am not ignoring the importance of the markets but we are in a democracy and there is a certain time that is needed," the 68-year-old Monti said, as international leaders called on him to act quickly to implement key reforms.



Waterboarding is a form of torture in which water is poured over the face of an immobilized captive, thus causing the individual to experience the sensation of drowning. Although a variety of specific techniques are used in waterboarding, the captive's face is usually covered with cloth or some other thin material, and the subject is immobilized on his/her back. Water is then poured onto the face over the breathing passages, causing an almost immediate gag reflex and creating the sensation that the captive is drowning.

They notably backed "waterboarding," a kind of controlled drowning that McCain, a former prisoner of war during the Vietnam conflict, branded as torture when he was the party's presidential nominee in 2008.

"I don't see it as torture. I see it as an enhanced interrogation technique," said former pizza restaurant chain executive Herman Cain, using a term popular under Republican former president George W. Bush.

"This is war. That's what happens in war. And I am for using the techniques -- not torture, but using those techniques that we know will extract the information to save young American lives. And I will be for it until I die," said Texas Governor Rick Perry.

"I would be willing to use waterboarding," said Representative Michele Bachmann, who sits on the House Intelligence Committee. "My strategy will be that the United States will be victorious in the war on terror."

"We have to use enhanced interrogation techniques, all

enhanced interrogation techniques," agreed former senator Rick Santorum.

Leading candidate Mitt Romney was not directly asked about techniques like waterboarding, and Representative Ron Paul and former US envoy to China Jon Huntsman broke sharply with their rivals by denouncing the practice as torture.

"Waterboarding is torture," said Paul. "It's illegal under international law and under our law. It's also immoral and it's also very impractical. There's no evidence that you really get reliable evidence."

"We diminish our standing in the world and the values that we project, which include liberty, democracy, human rights, and open markets, when we torture," said Huntsman.

Obama weighed in on Sunday, bluntly telling the Republican candidates who support waterboarding that they were "wrong" in vowing to restore the technique.

"Waterboarding is torture," the president said. "It's contrary to America's traditions. It's contrary to our ideals."



FAIRFAX - Born in China, Noah Avery, 4, is held close by his adopted father Alex Avery of Stanton, Virginia, during the children's citizenship ceremony at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Fairfax, Virginia, yesterday. In celebration of National Adoption Month, 25 children representing nine countries, including Bulgaria, China, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Korea, Liberia, Russia, Taiwan and Vietnam, celebrated their U.S. citizenship during the ceremony. According to the US Department of Human Services Administration for Children and Families, the month is set aside each year to raise awareness about the adoption of children and youth from foster care. (AFP)

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Rio to pacify more favelas ahead of World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - A day after police took over Brazil's largest drug-infested favela, Rocinha, and two smaller ones, Rio authorities said yesterday they planned to pacify dozens more ahead of the 2014 World Cup.

For the first time in decades, heavily armed security forces on Sunday stormed Rocinha, Vidigal and Chacara do Ceu and peacefully occupied the slums overlooking Rio's wealthiest neighborhoods, without firing a shot and with no resistance from drugtraffickers.

The operation widened the security perimeter around Rio's residential and tourist area as Brazil prepares to host football's 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics.

"This occupation has a strong symbolic value by its location, in Rio's richest area, and completes a cycle of occupations in the southern zone of the city in those tourist areas

most directly linked to the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games," said Professor Ignacio Cano, of the Rio de Janeiro Federal University's violence analysis center.

It opens the way for deploying police pacification units (UPPs) specially trained to deal with communities which for years have been ruled by drugtraffickers and para-military militias.

The occupation will also make it possible to provide sorely needed social services such as basic sanitation and trash collection.

More than 1.5 million people, a third of Rio's population, live in 1,000 slums scattered on hillsides across the city.

Since 2008, when Rio authorities launched the pacification drive, 19 UPPs have been established and the goal is to set up 21 more before the 2014 World Cup. Each UPP can cover several favelas.

Coke plans \$2 billion investment in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) - World beverage leader Coca-Cola said yesterday it plans to invest \$2 billion over five years in India, stepping up its rivalry with PepsiCo in the South Asian emerging market giant.

The US-based soft drinks company said in a statement that the non-alcoholic beverage market has enormous growth potential in India, which has a burgeoning young population.

"It would not surprise me if India became one of the top five markets globally for the company by the end of the

decade," Coca-Cola Eurasia and Africa group president Ahmet Bozer said in the statement.

Right now, India, a country of 1.2 billion people, ranks among the multinational giant's top 10 markets by volume globally, Coke said.

The brands Coke and US rival PepsiCo dominate India's vast soft drinks market.

Globally, Coke and its bottling partners are investing nearly \$30 billion over the next five years to keep pace with expected demand, the company said.

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Brussels greenlights natural Latin American sweetener



BRUSSELS (AFP) - Brussels gave its green light yesterday to the use of the age-old natural South American sweetener, stevia, in foods and drinks across the European Union.

The European Commission said it gave approval of the natural sweetener for use in the food industry from December 2 on the recommendation of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA).

Stevia rebaudiana, sometimes known as sweatleaf or sugarleaf, is part of the sunflower family. Its steviol glycoside extracts can be far sweeter than sugar, making it attractive for low-carbohydrate, low-sugar foods.

Stevia is widely used in Asia and South America.

The director of the International Stevia Council welcomed the decision saying that "as a result, consumers across Europe will be able to enjoy products sweetened by steviol glycosides."

Flood-weary residents lash out in Bangkok



AFP photo shows people carrying stuff on a floating device in the flood waters in front of Don Muang airport in Bangkok on November 14, 2011. Angry residents in flooded Bangkok protested, briefly blocking a major highway as frustration mounted that parts of the Thai capital are suffering badly while the center stays dry. Thailand's worst floods in half a century, triggered by months of unusually heavy monsoon rains, have left at least 562 people dead around the kingdom and damaged millions of homes and livelihoods.

Germany admits gross errors after neo-Nazi killing spree



Right-wing extremist Holger G. (2R) is brought to his arraignment carrying a Stephen King novel into the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe, Germany, on November 14, 2011. On November 13, the man has been arrested on the charges of being a possible accomplice to the neonazi trio responsible for the Germany-wide murders of eight Turkish and Greek citizens.

(AFP PHOTO)

group was based, Hans-Peter Friedrich told the daily Bild.

"State interior ministers are calling for better coordination between police and domestic intelligence on the state level. I strongly back that."

Federal prosecutors launched the probe last week after the discovery of a pistol used in the nine murders in the home of a 36-year-old woman, Beate Zschaepe, a self-confessed neo-Nazi.

Wanted by police for questioning over an armed robbery in the eastern city of Jena on November 4, she had turned herself in after blowing up a rented flat in nearby Zwickau.

The killings had long been called the "kebab murders" because many of the victims ran snack shops.

Health & Living

US Supreme Court to hear challenge to Obama health care

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court Monday agreed to hear arguments on the constitutionality of President Barack Obama's landmark health care reform, under fire from rival Republicans ahead of next year's elections.

The nation's nine top justices will "likely" hear the case in March, a court spokesman said, and are expected to issue a ruling by June in a judgment which could reverberate before the November 2012 presidential elections.

The court said they would consider a request by the Obama administration to declare the measure constitutional, as well as two cases challenging the law, including one case presented by 26 US states and small businesses that want to strike down the totality of the reform.

Opponents say the most controversial feature of the law -- mandating that people buy health insurance or face a tax penalty -- violates individual rights as set out under the US Constitution.

But the White House said it was satisfied that the legis-

lation, which was a key plank of Obama's 2008 White House campaign and was passed into law amid much fanfare in 2010, was being taken up by the nation's top bench.

"We are pleased the court has agreed to hear this case," said a White House spokesman, Dan Pfeiffer, of the law which extended coverage to an extra 32 million people and was a long-held dream of Democrats for social reform.

The hearing on the case will last about five and a half hours, apparently "the longest in modern history," the court spokesman told AFP.

Republican opponents argue the government has no power to compel people to buy health insurance and Republican House Speaker John Boehner on Monday renewed his pledge to repeal the law.

"The American people did not support this law when it was rushed through Congress and they do not support it now that they've seen what's in it," he said in a statement.

"This government takeover of health care is threatening jobs, increasing costs, and jeop-

ardizing coverage for millions of Americans, and I hope the Supreme Court overturns it."

But Democratic Senator, Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said: "Most appellate courts have upheld the constitutionality of this historic law, and when the Senate voted to pass the Affordable Care Act, it also voted specifically on its constitutionality. I hope the Supreme Court will defer to Congress in addressing this national problem."

Despite Obama's nominations to the Supreme Court of justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, the nine-strong bench, which acts as the nation's arbiter on the toughest legal and moral issues facing the country, has been viewed as one of the most conservative in decades.

Last year a controversial Supreme Court ruling lifted curbs on corporations, lobbyists, other special interest groups spending millions of dollars to back election candidates and influence outcome of US elections.

Lower court rulings have conflicted on the constitutionality of the health care law, and the top US court turned down two other requests to review the landmark legislation.

On November 8, a US appeals court upheld the constitutionality of health care overhaul, ruling that mandating that people buy health insurance or face a tax was not a violation of individual rights.

In August a federal appeals court in Georgia ruled that the individual mandate exceeded the powers of Congress, but also ruled that the remainder of the health care law was within the bounds of the constitution.

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Tooth cleaning helps reduce risk of heart disease: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Regular professional cleaning of teeth not only gives a patient a more radiant smile but also helps reduce the risk of heart attack or stroke, according to a new study.

The study presented Sunday at an American Heart Association meeting in Orlando, Florida, was conducted at the Veterans General Hospital in Taipei, Taiwan.

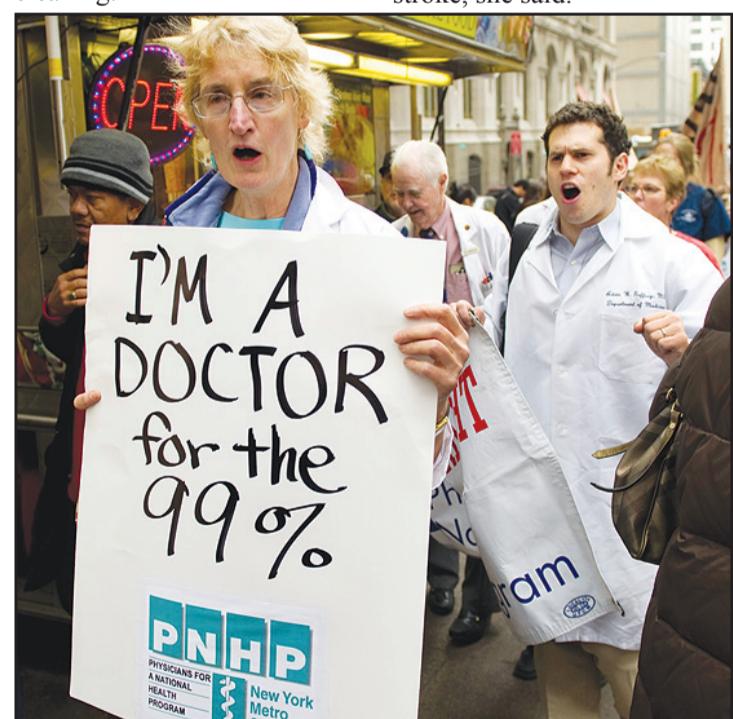
Researchers have found that those who had their teeth scraped and cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist had a 24 percent lower risk of heart attack and 13 percent lower risk of stroke compared to those who had never had a dental cleaning.

More than 100,000 people were followed in this study for an average of seven years.

Scientists considered tooth scaling frequent if it occurred at least twice or more in two years and occasional if it occurred once or less in two years.

"Protection from heart disease and stroke was more pronounced in participants who got tooth scaling at least once a year," said Emily (Zu-Yin) Chen, cardiology fellow at the Veterans General Hospital.

Professional tooth scaling appears to reduce inflammation-causing bacterial growth that can lead to heart disease or stroke, she said.



New York : Doctors and nurses join the protest for better health care at Zuccotti Park November 13, 2011 in New York. A group of doctors and nurses administered free flu shots for the to 99% at Occupy Wall Street.
AFP PHOTO

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22 sperm whales die in Australia



SYDNEY (AFP) - Rescuers were racing against the clock Monday to save two huge sperm whales stranded on a Tasmanian sandbank after 22 others died, the Parks and Wildlife Service said.

Marine mammal specialists were on site in Macquarie Harbour at Strahan on Tasmania's northwest coast, but the rescue bid was hampered by rough weather.

Twenty-two of the whales -- each weighing two tonnes and up to 12 metres (40 feet) long -- washed ashore on Saturday at Ocean Beach near Strahan, and all of them died.

Four others came into the harbour and became stranded on a sandbank. Two of these

were successfully refloated and swam back out to sea, but the other two remain stuck.

Rescuers said two minke whales also got into trouble nearby and died.

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife incident controller Chris Arthur said the sperm whales were so big that they could not simply be pulled into deeper water by volunteers, instead requiring a more complicated rescue operation.

"A specially-developed net attached to two boats has been designed to slip under a whale, enabling it to be hauled from immediate danger," he said.

But conditions were worsening, with high winds and seas, and attempts to refloat

the whales had to be postponed until Tuesday.

"Although we were unable to move the surviving whales into open water today, we are hoping conditions will improve over the next few days," Arthur said, adding that the whales were tired but still flapping their fins and blowing water.

"The weather conditions are against us at present, but managed properly, these animals can survive at least a few days."

Another problem in Strahan is its treacherous narrow channel, known as Hells Gates, through which the whales must pass to get back into deeper water.

"Pushing a large whale against sea surging through the 25-metre passage is like pushing a cork into a bottle," added Arthur.

But he expressed confidence given that seven sperm whales were saved after a similar stranding in the harbour in 2007.

The Parks and Wildlife Service said that samples had been taken from the 22 dead whales, which will remain on the beach until they decompose because they are too large to move or bury.

Explaining why they died, Arthur said: "People seem to forget that these animals breathe air. When they are caught in the surf and they are being rolled around, they are in the sand -- they can't get their blowholes up to get oxygen."

Whale beachings are relatively common in Australia and they usually occur in the summer months, particularly around Tasmania, but scientists do not know why they happen.

Kindle Fire shipping to mixed reviews

(AFP) - Amazon began shipping the Kindle Fire on Monday as initial reviews were mixed for the touchscreen tablet computer seen as a potentially strong rival to Apple's market-leading iPad.

The Seattle, Washington-based online retail giant had initially planned to ship the Kindle Fire, which at \$199 costs less than half the cheapest iPad, on Tuesday but it began sending them to customers a day early.

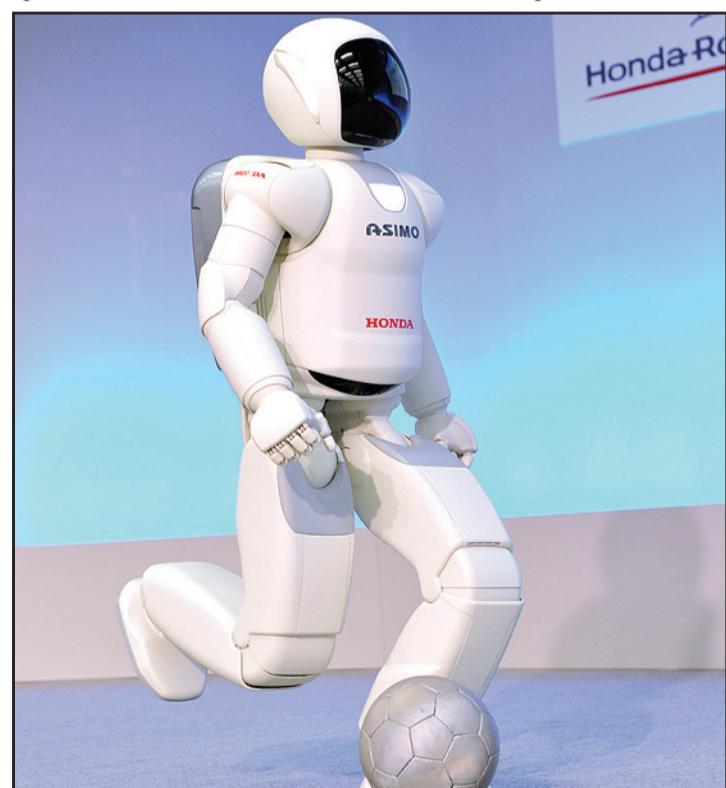
Dave Limp, vice president of Amazon Kindle, said the Fire is already the "bestselling item across all of Amazon.com" and the company was "building millions more than we'd planned" because of the customer response.

The Kindle Fire has a seven-inch (17.78-centimeter) screen, smaller than the iPad's 9.7 inches (24.6 cm), connects to the Web using Wi-Fi and is powered by Google's Android software.

It does not have a camera or the 3G connectivity featured on other tablets but it gives buyers easy access to Amazon's online store, which sells books, music, movies, television shows, games and other content.

Technology reviewers were divided in their appraisal of the device after getting their hands on preview models.

Reviewer Joshua Topolsky of TheVerge.com said the Kindle Fire "isn't an iPad-killer" but is a "really terrific tablet for its price."



WAKO : A Honda robot named 'Asimo' kicks a ball during a demonstration of its new functions, at the company's laboratory in Wako city, suburban Tokyo .The new Asimo can move without being controlled by an operator after its 'intelligence' and physical ability to adapt to situations was improved.

AFP PHOTO

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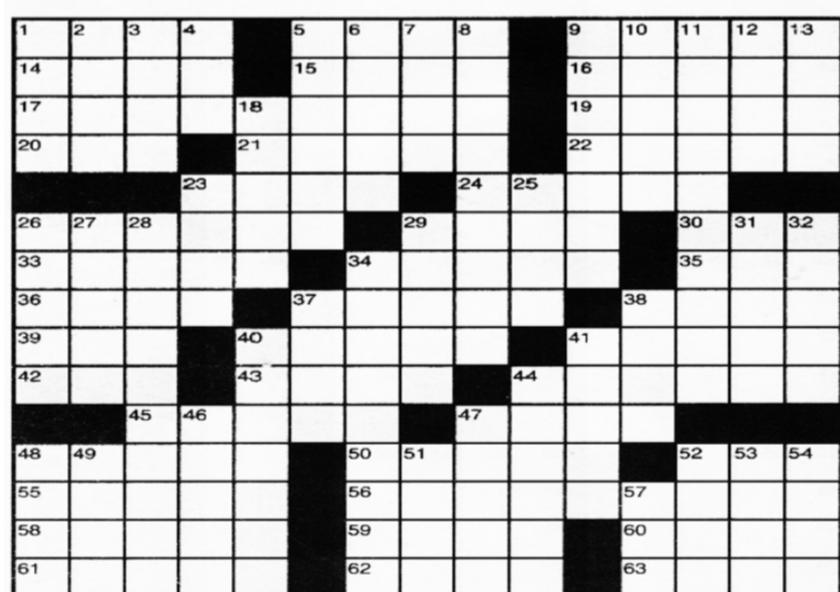
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- Black Power symbol
- Sparkling Italian town
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- Biology suffix
- Animals harnessed together
- Tavern regular
- "Chairman of the Board" star
- Bangs away on an Underwood
- Squash-court intersection
- Nine-day-old ingredient
- On guard
- Chow down, in Yuppietown
- '60s anime character
- Speed
- Unlikely to make the deadline
- Swindle
- Rolled tea
- Like Maria's hills
- Scottish hillsides
- Knocking sound
- Baltic port
- Three squares
- Tousle
- To the — degree
- Corner (Westminster Abbey section)
- Sample food
- Ere Oct.
- Korean soldiers
- Pens
- '70s commercial tyke Mason



47. "Mother — today" (opening of "The Stranger")

5. Be there
6. Bristles
7. O'Keeffe's adopted home
8. Old Chryslers
9. Accuses
10. Actor Peter
11. The carriage trade
12. One with an eye on the future
13. Formerly, of old
18. Put in one's two cents
23. Frank Zappa's youngest child
25. Fermented beverages
26. Lofty places?
27. Finest part
28. Oracle's interpreter
29. Rotten tots
31. Celery
32. Church sections
34. Peter Fonda, in "Ulee's Gold"
37. Meadow sounds
38. Damsel
40. Made floral mementos
41. Orchard units
44. Most expansive
46. Make someone happy
47. They're put up by pugilists
48. Bark fiber
49. Algerian city
51. Active
52. Siberian river
53. Refreshments
54. Revue item
57. Milhouse, to Bart

WAY UP THERE

1. Actuality
2. Of wrath: Lat.
3. "My liege!"
4. Roof

SOLUTION

9	7	6	2	4	8	1	3	5
5	3	8	7	1	9	2	6	4
1	4	2	3	5	6	7	8	9
2	8	3	6	1	3	4	7	
4	6	3	8	7	5	9	2	1
7	9	1	4	2	3	4	5	7
3	2	4	5	9	7	6	1	8
8	1	9	6	3	4	5	7	2
6	5	7	1	8	2	4	9	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Spanish debt risk premium hits new record

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's debt risk premium shot to a record high yesterday as financial markets turned their fire on the crisis-hit economy six days before a general election.

Spain had appeared to have largely escaped the wrath of the markets, consumed by an unravelling Greek rescue plan

and political chaos in debt-burdened Italy.

But less than a week before November 20 general elections, widely expected to deliver a landslide victory to the opposition conservative Popular Party, Spain's government bonds took a hit.

The risk premium, the extra



Kapolei: US President Barack Obama (front 2nd R) shares a light moment with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard (front L), Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (front 2nd L), Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda (front R), New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Bill English (top L), Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (top 2nd L), South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak (top 2nd R) and Mexican Trade Minister Bruno Ferrari (top R) during the official photo session for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Kapolei, Hawaii on November 13, 2011. The United States hosts this year's APEC forum for the first time since 1993, with leaders from the 21 member economies convening on the island of Oahu on November 12-13. (AFP PHOTO)

Repsol finds more oil off Brazilian coast

MADRID (AFP) - Repsol, Spain's biggest oil group, said yesterday it has made a new oil discovery off the coast of Brazil together with Chinese partner Sinopec, Britain's BG Group and Brazil's Petrobras.

The field containing "high quality" crude was discovered nearly 300 kilometers (185 miles) off the coast of Sao Paulo at a depth of 4,830 metres, it said in a statement.

Repsol and its partner

Sinopec have a 25 percent stake in the consortium which is led by Petrobras which has 45 percent. The remaining 30 percent is held by BG Group.

In June, the company announced it had discovered two grades of "good quality" oil about 190 kilometers off the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

Last week, Repsol announced its largest-ever oil discovery, saying it had discovered nearly a billion barrels in unconventional oil and gas in Patagonia, a find that doubles its proven reserves in Argentina.

return investors demand to buy Spanish 10-year government bonds over comparable safe-haven German debt, hit a euro era record of 4.30 percentage points.

The 10-year Spanish government bond yield broke the 6.0-percent barrier for the first time since August, bad timing for Spain which holds bond auctions this week to raise up to 7.5 billion euros (\$10 billion).

The Spanish stock market's IBEX-35 index of leading shares dropped 2.15 percent to close at 8,372.2 points.

EU predicts 50 million hens kept illegally next year

BRUSSELS (AFP) - European agriculture chiefs predicted yesterday that more than 50 million battery hens will still be held next year in illegal cages, as Brussels threatened legal action against 11 states.

EU agriculture commissioner John Dalli told a meeting of farming ministers in Brussels that the eggs from more than 51 million hens will no longer be eligible for commercialisation as of January 1 next year.

That is when new European Union regulations that guarantee the hens at least 750 square centimeters of living space, if not a nest, a perch or free-range conditions, come into force.

Dalli said the Commission "will start opening infringement proceedings" against farmers that do not adapt to the new rules as soon as possible.

He said the 11 countries whose national authorities were likely to face written warnings were: Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal and Romania.

"They have had several years to adapt," German farming minister Ilse Aigner said.



Current as of: 11/14/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.773	1.750	1.770
Britian	GBP	2.770	2.820	2.880
Switzerland	CHF	1.9656	1.9728	1.9808
Netherlands	EUR	2.4107	2.4327	2.4572
Sweden	SEK	0.2570	0.2642	0.2722
Denmark	DKK	0.3173	0.3245	0.3325
Norway	NOK	0.3041	0.3113	0.3193
Japan	JPY	229.20	231.29	233.62

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Expo Logro" making its official debut in San Nicolaas!



The celebrations of Aruba's 25th year of Apart Status continue, and the next feature on the celebration agenda is the inauguration of the "EXPO LOGRO" exposition which is slated to take place at the Sta. Theresita Center in San Nicolaas.

In this exposition the organizers have carefully selected the most important



accomplishments in our community which transpired during the past 25 years. Minister of Economic Affairs, Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer opened the exposition on Thursday evening and expressed her support for the initiative of such an excellent idea.

A very important feature of this exposition is that the organizers intend to take the exposition to our different barrios. Hence, "Epo Logro" will visit the Noord, Santa

Cruz and Paradera barrios. In each barrio they will add the accomplishments of these barrios to the exposition. This means, that this exposition will become a "growing" exposition!

Another special feature of the exposition is that it will be interactive and very varied. There will be a section for music, movies of yester years, and images on overhead beamers.

They will also be equipped with guides who will provide guided tour information of each section for anyone requesting this.



One section of the exposition will entail the Bureau of Statistics, which will provide ample information regarding Aruba's demographic situation over the past 25 years.

They will provide an analysis, for example, of Aruba's calypsos and their significance over the past 25 years. SETAR will outline the development of telecommunication. This is expected to be a one-of-a-kind exposition. School children are encouraged to come and see this storehouse of information!

There is no entrance fee.

The exposition is being held at the Sta. Theresita Center on the left side of the entrance of the mainstreet in San Nicolaas and is to remain open until December 7th. After this date it will move to another barrio. The opening hours are from 9 in the morning through to 7 in the evening.

The total program is planned to culminate on March 18, 2012 during a grand cultural market event like the one held on March 18, 2011 for the celebration of 25 years of Status Aparte.

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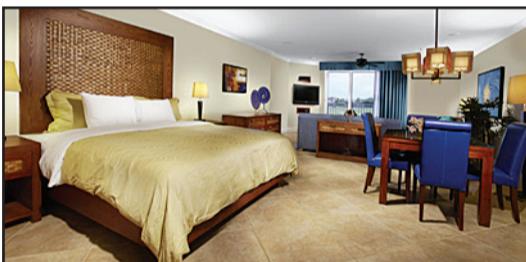
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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger



Aaron and Manager Marc Anthony

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers—the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet



cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way—with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit.

SPORT

Football: We don't fear the Dutch, says Germany's Loew

BERLIN, (AFP) - Germany coach Joachim Loew has insisted his side have nothing to fear ahead of Tuesday's friendly against World Cup finalists the Netherlands in Hamburg as they look to finish 2011 in style.

After winning all 10 of their Euro 2012 qualifiers and humbling Brazil in an August friendly, Loew is looking for Germany's first win over the Dutch since 1996 in what will be his 75th international as national team coach.

Both sides are without key players with Germany captain Philipp Lahm being rested and Bayern Munich star midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger missing with a broken collarbone.

Likewise, Dutch midfielder Rafael van der Vaart is out with a thigh strain while striker Robin van Persie has returned to his Premier League club Arsenal to be rested.

The Dutch attack will feature Inter Milan star Wesley Sneijder and Liverpool's Dirk Kuyt, but Loew says his team -- including Real Madrid playmaker Mesut Ozil and Bayern's Mario Gomez -- are relishing the challenge.

"We have no fear and there is no reason to be afraid," said Loew told reporters Monday.

"It will be a great challenge to play against the number two team in the world. I expect an aggressive and interesting game."

While both teams are among the Euro 2012

favourites, they share a rich history with Germany racking up 13 wins to the Netherlands' 10 and the sides drawing 14 times since their first encounter in 1910.

Their most explosive clash was in Milan at the 1990 World Cup when Germany beat the Netherlands 2-1 in a bad-tempered quarter-final.

Both Germany's Rudi Voeller and Holland's Frank Rijkaard were sent off early in the match after the Dutchman infamously spat at the German midfielder.

A Dutch reporter could not resist asking whether the match in Hamburg was a friendly game or a war between neighbours.

Loew played an experimental three-man defence in Friday's 3-3 draw with Ukraine in Kiev and is considering playing a traditional 4-4-2 formation against the Dutch.

Veteran Miroslav Klose, who is six goals short of Gerd Mueller's record as Germany's all-time top scorer, trained on Sunday and Loew said he will decide on Monday night whether he will partner Mario Gomez up front.

The coach also said Hamburg's Dennis Aogo will switch from defensive midfielder to left back while Ozil will start.

The Dutch meanwhile are looking for a win in Hamburg after they were booed by their own fans after a goalless draw against Switzerland in Amsterdam on Friday.

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Golf: Fernandez-Castano wins storm-hit play-off



This handout photo provided by taken and released on November 13, 2011 by the World Sport Group shows Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano shows Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano of Spain.

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Spain's Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano won the US\$1 million Barclays Singapore Open play-off on the second extra hole early on Monday after storms forced the players to endure an agonising overnight wait.

The 31-year-old from Madrid seized victory with a

nine-foot birdie putt on the par-five 18th hole as opponent Juvic Pagunsan of the Philippines pushed his effort just wide.

The conclusion was witnessed by just a smattering of fans at Sentosa Golf Club who braved a 7:30 am start after the play-off was twice interrupted and finally postponed a day earlier amid torrential rain and lightning strikes.

Pagunsan, 33, had a golden chance to deliver the Philippines' maiden European Tour win on the first extra hole on Monday but he pushed his five-foot birdie putt just left.

Juvic missed a 10-footer on the second hole and Fernandez-Castano made him pay as he drained his putt for his fifth European Tour victory and his first in three years.

Fernandez-Castano said he knew his chance was gone as soon as his first-hole putt crept wide. But he was delighted to have shot to the top of the Asian

money list with his US\$666,660 second prize.

"I thought, 'this is my big chance,'" said the Filipino. "But I missed it. But I'm still a big winner."

Fernandez-Castano had taken control of the rain-hit event at par-71 Sentosa with a 10-under-par second round and got a major slice of luck when the tournament was slashed to 54 holes after downpours washed out most of Saturday.

He took a four-shot lead into the last nine holes of regulation play but nerves set in and the Spaniard appeared to have blown his chance when he drove into the water on the 18th.

Pagunsan sank a 12-footer at the last to seemingly snatch a famous victory before Fernandez-Castano rolled in a long par putt to force the play-off.

The pair finished ahead of a clutch of major-winners at the US\$6 million event with Phil Mickelson, Graeme McDowell, Padraig Harrington, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen and Louis Oosthuizen all in their wake.



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WBO Welterweight Champion Manny Pacquiao (L) takes a left to his face from Juan Manuel Marquez (R) during their title fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena Saturday November 12, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Pacquiao defended his WBO welterweight title against Marquez with a majority 12 round decision. AFP Photo

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NBA players reject new offer, season at risk

NEW YORK (AFP) - The NBA Players Association on Monday rejected the owners' latest offer and have launched the process to disband their union, throwing the entire 2011-2012 pro basketball season into jeopardy.

Players had the option to accept the offer, which proposed a shortened 72-game schedule beginning December 15 to end a months-long lockout, or take it to a vote and turn it down altogether.

"This is the best decision for the players," union president Derek Fisher said Monday.

"A lot of individual players have a lot of things personally at stake in terms of their careers."

NBA commissioner David Stern had previously warned if the current offer is rejected, the owners would come back with an even harsher one.

"It looks like the 2011-12 season is really in jeopardy," Stern told ESPN. "It's just a big charade. To do it now, the union is ratcheting up I guess to see if they can scare the NBA owners or something. That's not happening."

But in order for the NBA to have a 72-game season, Stern admitted the two sides would

likely have to come to terms on a new collective bargaining agreement within the next week.

Fisher said he has the support of the players and was flanked at Monday's news conference by several stars, including Kobe Bryant and Carmelo Anthony.

A key sticking point remains the division of some \$4 billion in annual revenue.

Players received 57 percent of basketball-related income under their previous contract, but have said they would be willing to drop that to 52.5 percent.

Stern had said if the latest offer was rejected and there was another bargaining meeting, it would be based on a 53-47 split of revenues in the owners' favour, a flexible salary cap with a hard ceiling and salary rollbacks.

Players' representatives said they were prepared to dissolve the union and file an antitrust lawsuit against the league over the lockout, which has lasted for more than four months.

"The players feel they're not prepared to accept any ultimatum," said the executive director of the players union,

Billy Hunter, calling the offer "extremely unfair" on the part of the NBA management.

Stern, said Monday he was saddened and "terribly disappointed," made it clear the outlook for the season was not good, USA Today reported.

Stern insisted the latest offer is a good one and warned that decertification is not the route to take.

The owners say changes are needed because they lost \$300 million last season and hundreds of millions more in each year of the old agreement, which came into effect in 2005.

Olympics: London defends security plans after US 'concerns'

LONDON (AFP) - The British government was forced on Monday to defend its security plans for next year's Olympics after a newspaper reported the United States were set to send their own agents to the London Games.

The Guardian said US officials had raised "repeated concerns" about security and were planning to deploy 1,000 of their own security agents, including 500 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in London.

The paper added the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) had underestimated the number of security staff it would need at the 32 Games venues, with 21,000 guards now required rather than the initial figure of 10,000.

Both the Home Office, Britain's interior ministry, and the Ministry of Defence are involved in security planning for the Olympics.

A Home Office spokesman insisted that security planning

was "on track" and that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had "full confidence" in the blueprint.

"The International Olympic Committee (IOC) undertake detailed inspections of security preparations and have full confidence in our plans. The UK has a strong and close working relationship with the US, who have expressed similar confidence."

Meanwhile, London 2012 chiefs said the venues and competition schedule needed to be completed before they could finalise security plans.

"Since winning the bid, a huge amount of collaborative work has been completed," a LOCOG statement said.

"We finalised the competition schedule, with 650 sporting sessions over 18 days, built and selected over 100 competition and non-competition venues, and designed the transport and accommodation plans."

"This all needed to be in place before the detailed security plans could be confirmed."

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NFL: 49ers beat Giants to extend win streak to seven



EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ - NOVEMBER 13: Rob Gronkowski #87 of the New England Patriots makes a catch to fumble the ball against the New York Jets at MetLife Stadium on November 13, 2011 in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Defensive end Justin Smith batted down Eli Manning's fourth-down pass late in the fourth quarter to preserve the San Francisco 49ers' 27-20 win over the New York Giants on Sunday.

With his team trailing, star quarterback Manning completed a pair of long fourth-down passes and got the Giants into scoring position late in the game.

Unlike last week's rally by the Giants at New England, this time San Francisco's Smith made a leaping smack of the ball on fourth-and-two from the 10.

"I just walked off the field with joy inside. Right now, we're 8-1," said Carlos Rogers, who had a couple of key interceptions. "We stuck to it to the end, and last minute of the game made a play."

The 49ers posted their seventh consecutive win to extend their best start since 1997. They also matched the defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers for the most wins in the National Football League this season with eight.

"It was a big win for us. As we continue to win we're getting on a bigger stage, and that's exactly what we want,

we want to continue to climb and get on bigger stages," quarterback Alex Smith said.

"That's it. You're as good as your record, and you're as good as your last game. And we beat a really good football team."

San Francisco was forced to play without runningback Frank Gore, whose franchise-record streak of five-straight games with 100 yards rushing ended with a knee injury.

Manning finished 26-for-40 for 311 yards and two touchdowns with two interceptions.

In the late game Sunday, the New England Patriots defeated the New York Jets 37-16.

Quarterback Tom Brady threw three touchdown passes, including two to Rob Gronkowski, and the Patriots took control of the AFC East with a dominating win.

In Cincinnati, Rashard Mendenhall ran for a pair of touchdowns Sunday, and the Pittsburgh Steelers intercepted quarterback Andy Dalton twice late in the game, holding on for a 24-17 win over the Bengals.

Cornerback William Gay guessed correctly on rookie quarterback Dalton's throw and stepped in front of Jerome Simpson for the key interception inside the Pittsburgh 20-yard line with 2:27 remaining.

Pittsburgh came into Sunday's contest with only two interceptions all season.

Pittsburgh's victory snapped the Bengals' five-game winning streak in front of the first sold-out crowd at Cincinnati's Paul Brown Stadium.

"We're a great defence because of the way we play," safety Ryan Clark said. "Turnovers tend to come in spurts. That's what separates teams from being a great defence. Today, we were able to help us win it."

Dalton completed two more touchdown passes, giving him 14 overall - the most by a rookie quarterback in his first nine games since the AFL-NFL merger 41 years ago.

In Atlanta, John Kasay kicked a 26-yard field goal in overtime to give the New Orleans Saints a 26-23 victory over Atlanta after Falcons coach Mike Smith decided to gamble on fourth down deep in his own zone.

The Falcons rallied from a 10-point deficit in the final quarter, tying it on Matt Bryant's 27-yard field goal on the final play of the fourth quarter.

In overtime, the Falcons failed to pick up a first down on a pass to Mike Cox. Smith decided to go for it on fourth down at their own 29 instead of kicking the ball, but their attempt backfired.

Michael Turner was stopped, allowing Kasay to kick the winning field goal for the Saints.

In other games Sunday it was Jacksonville 17 Indianapolis 3, Dallas 44 Buffalo 7, Miami 20 Washington 9, Denver 17 Kansas City 10, St. Louis 13 Cleveland 12, Arizona 21 Philadelphia 17, Tennessee 30 Carolina 3, Houston 37 Tampa Bay 9, Seattle 22 Baltimore 17 and Chicago 37 Detroit 13.

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